



City of Austin

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX, 78767

Memorandum

AUSTIN CODE DEPARTMENT

Rich Samir

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Cora D. Wright, Director, Austin Code Department
Date: July 5, 2018
Subject: Update regarding amendment to International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), Section 304.14 - Insect Screens

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Council with an update on an amendment to the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) related to Section 304.14, Insect Screens.

On October 12, 2017, Council approved an ordinance adopting the 2015 IPMC and local amendments, excluding Section 304.14, Insect Screens, and held a special session on insect screens that same day. Council directed the City Manager to conduct research and obtain community input by June 30, 2018 on a proposed ordinance that would require insect screens on windows or exterior doors that would apply only to homes that do not have mechanical ventilation, such as air conditioning.

ACD staff conducted an extensive review of this topic over the last several months which included the following activities:

- a. Reviewed City of Austin (COA) existing codes for screen requirements that pertain to protecting health and safety;
- b. Conducted an extensive community engagement process to gather feedback, including community education and outreach and surveys;
- c. Consulted with COA Austin Public Health Department to examine public health indicators and the City's capacity and protocols to monitor and respond to the public health risks;
- c. Consulted with community stakeholders: Austin Apartment Association (AAA), Austin Tenants Council, Austin Board of Realtors (ABOR), Austin Housing Coalition and Building and Strengthen Tenant Action (BASTA);
- d. Conducted industry and comparable city research; and

- e. Presented ACD's findings to the Building and Standards Commission (BSC) on June 27, 2018.

Staff presented detailed findings and recommendations to the BSC in June 2018 to solicit input to formulate a final recommendation. Unfortunately, the BSC's agenda extended beyond 10:00 P.M., at which point, the commission moved to table the item until their next scheduled meeting in July for discussion and action.

Next Steps

Department staff will finalize its review and information gathering following the July BSC meeting, and provide Council with a final recommendation in August 2018. Should you have questions in the meantime, you may contact me at (512) 974-3622 or by email at cora.wright@austintexas.gov.